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NO. 4.

## Easter Greeting

Pastors and Officers of Stations, Clergymen and Missions of the Sixth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, which District includes all the Churches and Congregations in the States of Alabama and Georgia.

**DEAR BRETHREN**—Our Book of Discipline makes it our duty, as the Bishop of the said Episcopal District to inform you that Sabbath, April 18th, is Easter Sunday. A day which the Christian world holds in sacred commemoration, and have for ages, as implying the day our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, arose from the dead, and completed the redemption of mankind.

A large number of the Christian Churches, both in Europe and America, have consecrated the entire day to collecting money and means for the support of Missions, and the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom on earth. And millions of dollars are being collected every day by Christian men and women, whose responsibilities to God, and sacrificing obligations are no more binding than ours.

Indeed the M. E. Church alone collects a million of dollars for missions on Easter Sabbath. The women alone, of some of the Christian churches are collecting \$500,000 (five hundred thousand dollars).

The A. M. E. Church, by order of the General Conference, fell in line in May, 1884, to the extent of also setting apart Easter Sabbath as a day to lay aside every other consideration, and collect money for the cause of missions; but our Book of Discipline was unconsciously and Godless tampered with, and the law was contorted to a more missionary sentiment; and over that was robbed of 60 per cent.

But a new era has dawned upon us. The spirit of missions, like heaven, has been at work, and ministers of all grades have passed through a change, and I believe that our Church is going to take a place in the front rank of missionary workers.

And it is for this reason that we have awakened thus early for the grumbling, complaining, fault-finding, criminalizing, recriminating and rebel tendencies, have grown out of the fact that we had turned our back upon God, and deafened our ears to his appeals, and God was turning His back upon us, and the A. M. E. Church would not have been a decent association in a decade from today.

It is no sacrifice to build Churches, pay pastors, purchase fuel and pay rent, or collect money for our individual comfort. We must go outside of self—make sacrifices for God and His Church, if we would have the blessings of heaven, and an enlargement of our Zion.

Some ministers, even with great mammoth Churches and congregations, cannot see anything but themselves, their own pockets, their own Church debts or their own local obligations; and in every instance, either the minister will go to the dogs, or the congregation will get into confusion and wrangle, or the walls of the Church will crack, or the edifice get burned to the ground just as the insurance upon it has been allowed to expire. I could name a dozen instances where I could see the cause of the pastor in charge, or the whole Church, on account of their narrow-hearted and selfish stin-giness.

My object in addressing you this epistle is to request each one of you to read the entire Missionary Law, commencing on foot of page 320 in our New Discipline, all of which I have not space to quote.

2d.—To call your attention to section 4th, foot of page 326, which reads as follows:

"An annual collection from each church and Sabbath school, including the entire Missionary Day, which is held in Easter Sunday of each year, and all moneys thus collected shall be held sacred to the Department of Missions, and forwarded at once to the Treasurer of said department."

The Treasurer referred to is the Secretary of Missions—Rev. H. B. Parks, B. D., room 61, Bible House, New York City.

Our Discipline, foot of page 370, further says:

"All moneys collected, both in church and Sunday school, on our Connectional Days, to-wit: Easter Day, Endowment and Children's Day, shall be sacredly appropriated to the object to which the day was set apart, and no church officers (trustees nor stewards, pastor, presiding elder or bishop, shall divert or use the said money otherwise."

On foot of page 328, section 10th, it is further made the duty of the Presiding Bishop, to see that the law is strictly enforced, or to treat the violator in all cases of neglect of duty, which this Bishop pray and implore the brethren not to bother him with, for I am already nearly worked to death; and neither I, nor my assistants (the Presiding Elders), have the time nor the disposition to be appointing committees to try and suspend ministers for neglecting this simple but easy duty, and a duty, too, which every child of God should be delighted to perform.

The A. M. E. Church should and could raise fifty thousand (\$50,000) dollars on Easter Sabbath, and the Sixth Episcopal District should raise eight thousand (\$8,000) dollars, without being burdened.

Rev. Allen Cooper, our pastor at America, Ga., assures us that he will raise nothing less than \$100 on Easter, and others express themselves in a similar manner.

The Sixth Episcopal District has no able representative in the person of Presiding Elder F. O. Snellson, of Sierra Leone, Africa, and this alone should inspire the brethren, to say nothing of Presiding Elder L. C. Cur-

tir, from Florida, and Dr. Heard, who are managing our work so heroically in Liberia, Africa, and others both in Africa, West Indies, South America, and elsewhere. The A. M. E. Church is establishing work in every clime on earth, and we are the only ecclesiastical body of our race in the country who is doing so. The idea of the A. M. E. Church raising less than six thousand (\$6,000) dollars on Easter Sabbath, is shameful. We must never do so again, nor do I believe we ever will.

Secretary Parks will furnish me with the names of the pastors, churches, and the moneys raised from all parts of the country. Let the ministers of the Sixth Episcopal District not be ashamed when they see it published in *THE VOICE OF MISSIONS*, for all of the amounts will be published, and will be read in America, England, Africa, Australia, and the Islands of the Sea. Send your collections to Rev. H. B. Parks, room 61 Bible House, New York City.

Now, my brethren, do your whole duty, not because the Bishop makes the appeal, but because Christ Jesus, our blessed Savior, and Bishop of Bishops, enjoins it upon us.

As soon as you read the above, re-read it again, or announce its contents to your congregation, and commence to rally your people, preparatory to a successful result on the day our General Conference has consecrated to the extension of the Messiah's reign in the hearts of the inhabitants of earth.

Yours for God and Missions,  
H. M. TURNER, Bishop.

### THE ANSWER

To the Recent Article, "Presiding Elders, Beware."

MR. EDITOR—Allow me space in your paper to speak of an article I saw in your paper: "Presiding Elders, Beware."

First, I desire to state that the author of the article knows nothing of little of Methodism, nor of its laws and usages. The writer states that no Presiding Elders have any right to attack or detach Churches from a circuit, such power being invested in the Annual Conference alone.

I wish to say that any Presiding Elders in any case of emergencies has a right to save the church from such tyranny, despotic rules and laws over God, heretics, who have basins and fiddles and all kinds of instruments, parties and balls in his Churches of God. This brother has had to fare contrary to the Bible and discipline of the Church, a man who has just been in our Church about three years from another Church cannot know as much about its usages and laws as one who has been raised from his birth in the A. M. E. Church. I don't know of any Presiding Elder that has done what this brother states but one, and that is his own Presiding Elder over the Talbot District, and he did this to save the Church from destruction. On account of this brother's tiny clayism, Mr. Editor, no Baptist preacher can come in the A. M. E. Church, and no one who is one who was born and raised in it, in three years time. That's why there is so much disturbance in our Churches now on account of the mixture. It has got so that we can't hardly hold a congregation on this account. I mean those Baptist preachers coming in our Church, try to use baptisms and usages in Churches and it won't work. When a Presiding Elder attended his duty and save his Churches under laws in his district he cannot transgress a law. The Presiding Elders have the same power as the Bishop in the Annual Conference, at his absence, in keeping his district up to the law. If any man is unacceptable and the people don't want him, and he has him, the Presiding Elder has the right to move him and make other arrangements under the law, H. C. Lomax to the contrary notwithstanding.

Yours,  
E. P. HOLMES, P. E.  
Macon, Ga.

### Brother Spencer Writes.

HINDSBURY ROAD, BRIDGETOWN, J. ST. MICHAEL, BARBADOES, W. I.  
Jan. 4th, 1898.

REV. H. B. PARKS, D. D., Missionary Secretary, 61 Bible House, New York City. Dear Brother: Your kind letter with cheque came to hand safely the last day in the old year. It was very acceptable. I had written you some weeks before, informing you of the progress of the work. Four members have been added to the church for the new year. The dear people are well and are good wishes for you. The work promises fair and I am doing all in my power to further it. I realize daily that God is on my side and it is my desire to spend and be spent in my desire to glorify in you many Master's cause.

Thanks for remembering me. I know you are interested in us and will, from time to time, send me help. I pray God to bless you, my dear brother, in all of your undertakings, and to strengthen you to carry on the work committed to you. I remain, fraternally yours,  
THOMAS SPENCER.

BRETHREN, we have taken the yoke upon us; we have pledged our services. Let us go where we are needed, remembering that our blessed Lord came into the world to save sinners. He waited for no formal invitation. He waited for no example and He has commanded us to visit the sick, care for the widow, shelter the fatherless, and do good wherever we can. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

To the Presiding Elders, Ministers and Members of the Fourth Episcopal District:

Allen's Day is past. You celebrated the birthday of the founder of our church. You are now called upon to celebrate Easter Day, set apart by the General Conference for the church to make a liberal contribution for the spread of the gospel of the Son of God into foreign lands. All other collections have been for the individual churches and for the personal use of the home work, but Easter Day is set apart in order that we may give and send the gospel to others—a free offering—a sacrifice on the common altar of Christianity and manhood.

Let every minister do his duty, preach a sermon on the resurrection of the Son of God, or on the immortality of the soul, and then call upon every member of his congregation and friends to give something that those who are sitting in the regions and shadow of death may see the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

It is our duty, as well as a privilege to become the light bearers to our brothers, to those who are near and dear to us, those who are bound to us by the strong ties of race and blood, interest and destiny. I trust that every minister of the Fourth Episcopal District will do his whole duty and that every member of the great army of African Methodists in the illustrious and distinguished Fourth District will be as faithful in this hour as were our fathers in their day and in their generation.

Collect the money and send it immediately to Dr. H. B. Parks, our

It is a beautiful blending of faith, history and prophecy. The unfolding of the germ and the plucking of the ripened fruit. Easter! Oh, glorious day, which introduces us to a two-fold mystery—the mystery of life and the mystery of death. The mystery of life: the birds, those winged musicians of the skies, the warbling orioles of the heavens, chirruping their spring-tide carols. The earth tinged with fresh verdure, the grain in its unfolding process, the quickened germ, the odoriferous flowers weaving their subtle, delicious odor. Spring has come. It is the voice of awakening. Life more abundant is nature's song. Our prayer to Almighty God is, that as believers you may demonstrate in your lives that you have been the recipient of this more abundant life, having had the grave clothing of sinful nature removed and the chains of carnality broken and are now new creatures in Christ Jesus, our sovereign head.

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Educational Money Endowment—(See Discipline.)—Kittrell College needs today, this Conference season, five thousand dollars. Don't fail to bring your part of it, or send it to Prof. C. G. O. Kelly. Contingent Money.—To meet the expenses of the Conferences, let every pastor bring from \$2 to \$10 for contingent money, and may the God of all grace preserve and keep you. Amen. JAMES A. HANLEY.

**Easter.**  
DEAR BRETHREN: To those of us whom a gracious Providence shall spare, the opportunities of rejoicing in another Easter will soon be given. There is no festival in the church, that should come to us with so much of the odor of sanctity about it. From the early centuries, Christians of every name and class and race have vied with each other in observing it and making it a day of real joy. The watchword placed upon the lips of all:

"CHRIST HAS RISEN," has been re-echoed to the world with gladness and praise. Moved by a spirit, common to this day, our church has done well, in consecrating it to the holy cause of missions; expecting each and all to make such an offering as will make possible the conversion of the heathen—especially the heathen of Africa.

To you, the brethren of the Fifth District, this message comes. As your presiding Bishop, we feel that we can with confidence appeal to you, in an interest that should and will command your best effort. We have only to say: UP AND AT IT. Let nothing stand in the way. On the contrary, let the whole church know that the West is awake to the mission of the hour.

Your brother and Bishop,  
BENZ. TUCKER TANNER.

To the Presiding Elders, Ministers and Members of the 11th Episcopal District and the Three Florida Conferences of the A. M. E. Church: My Dear Brethren—I come to you this time with Easter greetings. The 10th of April will be the celebration of the birth-time of humanity's hope. Therefore, I











